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LOCAL NOTICES.

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Becker's Spring Opening.

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NEWS SUMMARY.

BY TELEGRAPH.

Senator Wilson, who entertained the Prince of Wales at dinner, has been nominated by the Republicans of Massachusetts for re-election. The nomination will not be ratified until the Legislature meets in January next, and the contest will be a long one.

The Republican meeting at Baltimore, Georgia, on Saturday, was broken up by a band of negroes of the Southern Aid Club. Pistols were drawn under the building in which the G. S. W. Club, the Republican organization, was holding its meeting, and a general fight ensued.

The meeting will at Bremen, Clinton county, Illinois, on the Ohio and Mississippi Railroad, was burnt on Saturday night. It was one of the largest mills in the State, and was valued at $40,000. It was insured for $20,000, but for a considerable amount in different companies, and in other mills it is not insured.

At Omaha dispatch of the 4th says: The Indian Peace Commissioners have completed their business, and will start for Fort Sanders to-morrow, accompanied by the Commissioners to Laramie. No treaty will be made till the arrival of the Commissioners. A messenger is out in from the Sioux country for the Grand River chiefs, but does not say when they will be here. Spotted Tail and his party, arrived at the bottom, are anxious to meet their people in council, but refuse to go to Laramie, preferring to meet them here. Red Cloud's party is still on the road.

The Fifth Avenue Hotel, in New York, was sold at auction on Saturday, for $1,000,000, to Mr. Stewart, the owner of the property. The sale was made in the presence of a large number of persons, and was conducted with the greatest harmony. The bidding was spirited, and the property was knocked down at the first bid. The hotel is to be refurnished at a cost of $500,000, and will be opened on the 1st of May.

The Democratic Convention of Ohio, which met at Columbus on Thursday, nominated Allen G. Thurman for Governor, by acclamation. The platform declares that the Democratic party is the only party that can restore the Union; that the Constitution as it is, and the Union as it was, is the platform of the Democratic party; that the Fifteenth Amendment is void, because it was not ratified by the people of the States; that the Reconstruction acts are unconstitutional, revolutionary, and void; that the public debt should be paid as rapidly as practicable, all moneys drawn from the people by taxation, except such as are necessary for the current expenses of the Government, economically administered, being pledged to the payment of the bonds; that the national debt should be paid in the lawful money of the country; that the Democratic party is opposed to any further issue of United States notes, and demands the withdrawal of the United States notes as rapidly as the business interests of the country will permit; that the Democratic party is in favor of the speedy return to specie payments; that the Democratic party is in favor of the equal taxation of all property, and that the power to tax railroads, canals, and other property, should be preserved to the State; that the Democratic party is in favor of the payment of the interest on the bonds of the United States in coin, where the bonds do not express on their face that they are payable in lawful money; that the Democratic party is in favor of the payment of the interest on the bonds of the United States at the lowest rate that the money market will permit

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TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 1868.

The Commercial is the largest daily paper in the State, and gives daily one-fourth more reading than any other paper in Pittsburgh. It is the only Pittsburgh paper that uses the telegraph liberally, gives full market reports, and all the news of the day.

As proof of the estimate placed on the market reports of the Commercial, we will state that they are regularly copied by the New York Economist, Shipping List, Iron Age, and other papers of this character in that and other cities, and that leading English commercial papers and circulars regularly quote from them with credit. There is within the limited sales, hardly an Iron Factory, Oil Refinery, or leading manufactory of any kind that is not a subscriber to the Commercial, principally, because its reports are the only full and reliable given of the Pittsburgh markets.

CROP AND FRUIT PROSPECT.

our friends everywhere will confer a favor by writing us briefly concerning the grain and fruit prospect, and the farming and business prospect generally. We shall be obliged for any item of local interest that may be within their knowledge.

The Hon. John Hickman, of Chester, is reported to have left Harrisburg for his home, with the intention of not returning again. His course throughout the session has not been calculated either to make him useful to the State or satisfied with himself. In recent debates, especially, he has appeared to great disadvantage, both his manner and language having been so erratic as to call from the Republican side of the House unqualified dissent.

It is rumored that Governor Geary desires the Legislature to remain in session until the impeachment trial is ended. If they should be wanted then—of which there is no great probability—they could be convened by proclamation. It is said the Ohio Legislature, which is Democratic, proposes to remain in session till the time ends. For what reason it is difficult to conjecture, unless some *coup d'état* is on foot. Ohio has a Republican Governor, and he would scarcely recall the Legislature should it adjourn.

The majority of the Republican state ticket in Arkansas is about *thirty thousand*, and the Legislature is Republican by a decisive majority. This State was always reliable for the Democracy. It had just about as much to gain by the rebellion as a man with everything comfortable around him has in raising headlong into a consuming fire. But it went into the rebellion nevertheless—that is, the Democrats carried it in, and we see it to-day under free suffrage, Republican in every fibre. Arkansas possesses many attractions of soil and climate, but the greatest of all her attractions and advantages is her free constitution.

The Ohio *Statesman*, the organ of ultra democracy, insists that if impeachment succeeds something terrible will happen. The only significance to be attached to the predictions of that paper, is the fact that leading Ohio Democrats, like Judge Jewett, who has just returned from Washington, inquire them. Taken in connection with the mysterious intimations concerning the designs of the President relative to Hancock and Grittenden, in Washington, they possess a certain degree of interest. That Mr. Johnson may entertain the idea of doing something desperate is not at all improbable. He, as well as all the world beside, can now see that he has nothing to lose; that his case is so bad that it cannot be made much worse; and considering what folly he has committed, no one is safe in saying what he will not attempt. The *Statesman* may reflect correctly the disposition of the President, though he may after all be too great a coward to act it out.

MR. DISRAELI'S BREAK-DOWN.

Disraeli, the new Premier, has suffered a defeat sooner than any one dreamed. The success of the Gladstone proposition declaring against the further endowment of the Church in Ireland, and for its "disestablishment," was unexpected and overwhelming. The effect of this marked success of the Liberals on the fortunes of Ireland, and Great Britain in general, must be important. Another ministry will naturally follow, and Disraeli will have had a brief enjoyment of the position where, as much on account of his previous history as anything, he attracted the attention of the world.

The "disestablishment" of the Church—a vast ecclesiastical institution, conferring immense power—is a concession to that portion of Her Majesty's subjects, which will not be confined to Ireland. Whether it allays the irritation which has existed a pitch there little less than dangerous, remains to be seen. But whether it does or not, it is scarcely to be doubted that it will encourage the demands of the reformers in England; and we may easily conclude that it will be followed by demands and concessions quite as important as any yet granted in regard to suffrage. The Church of England and its disconnect from the Government, it is predicted, will be the next demand, to be followed by others not less radical concerning property tenures, aimed at the life of the aristocracy. Too little is known to warrant, at this moment, any very positive predictions as to the effect of this little less than revolutionary measure, which has carried the new Premier down, nor can it be known yet what measures combined to give so signal a victory to the Liberals. We may assume, however, that Fenianism has plucked out the leading important part, and that it is expected, by concessions to the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland, that this disturbing element will be quieted. That it is a vast concession to the Roman Catholics in Ireland, is indisputable. Four fifths of the Irish people are Catholics, and it is altogether probable that the idea of purchasing quiet and order there entered largely into the motives of the majority. In this view of the case, it is a concession to Fenianism. What will come of it, and what concessions will be demanded by other classes of her Majesty's subjects, are questions that will make English politics especially interesting in America ere long.

The Late War at Albany.

A letter from Albany says:

> Great pains and expense are expending now on the defences of Albany. Fort Orange, on the hill overlooking the city, is to be strengthened, and a new fort is to be built on the hill opposite. Albany is a good fort position, for the river is narrow here, and the hills command the river for miles. Albany is the head of navigation, and the fort would be a good one to command the river. Should the rebels ever get up here, they would find it a hard place to take. Albany is the capital of the State, and the seat of the State Government, and the rebels would have to take it before they could get to Troy, Schenectady, or Utica. Albany is the key to the State, and the rebels would have to get it before they could get to Buffalo. Albany is the key to the State, and the rebels would have to get it before they could get to Buffalo. Albany is the key to the State, and the rebels would have to get it before they could get to Buffalo.

What would our Legislature not give if they only could transfer the Erie War to Harrisburg?

The London *Times* is brilliant. In an editorial article before the defeat of Disraeli and the fall of that ship it would happen, when ever the war was talked, it said: "The national will is thus to be expressed, and it will be in no uncertain sound. It will thus clothe the Government with a power which no faction will dare to resist." The Government's vote in the form of a resolution of censure. New Zealand may take another form, but from that time forward the vast masses of opinion of the United Kingdom. The weight of opinion is to control and regulate and direct the course of the nation. The most prominent power.

An exploration of the various tunnels in the Mississippi valley, in the neighborhood of St. Louis, is about to be commenced by a scientific gentleman who has paid especial attention to the subject of American Archæology. Mark Mound and the other mound containing the Cahokia graves are first to be investigated, the research being under the auspices of a prominent Eastern scientific society. Whatever relics of ancient art may be discovered are to form part of a proposed National Antiquarian Museum.

It is said that Robert J. Walker and Senator Sumner deny the accuracy of an article of Gen. Banks's testimony so far as expressions there as attributing that an order is valid unless issued through them, found. Their opinions are supported in the course of this.

The City Councils.

The proceedings of Councils, fully reported in another column, contain several matters of general interest to our city readers. The ordinance providing for the widening of the sidewalks on Fifth street, which has been vetoed by the Mayor, was reconsidered in the Select branch, and failed on a motion to pass it over the veto. In Common Council the matter was referred to the City Attorney, to determine whether the veto is legal. The friends of the proposed improvement are disposed to test the legality of the veto, but the sentiment of Select Council seems decidedly in favor of a repeal of the ordinance.

The residents of the new districts are beginning to pray Councils loudly and fervently for a supply of water. The citizens of Lawrenceville and Oakland are especially anxious in this regard, and the Water Committee will doubtless have their hands full during the coming season, in extending water mains. A resolution authorizing the committee to make such extensions as they may deem proper in the new districts, was "hung up" in consequence of a disagreement between the two bodies as to the extent of the powers to be conferred upon the committee.

The Mayor sent in a communication suggesting that all tall-gates be abolished within the city limits, and also suggesting a change in the ordinance relative to cleaning the sidewalks and gutters. The Mayor thinks that Wednesdays and Saturdays, before ten o'clock in the morning, would be more suitable for that work than Tuesdays and Fridays. The reason why the latter days are not suitable, he says, is because Wednesdays and Saturdays are regular market days, and many persons would not be able to attend to the cleaning on those days. But we are not particular as to the days, preferring the ordinance as framed, and we are to have clean sidewalks and pure gutters.

There was an attempt made to adjust the difficulty in regard to the several local gas companies, which, under the consolidation act, are likely to be swallowed by the Pittsburgh Gas Company. The Lawrenceville corporation is now squirming in the jaws of the larger and more powerful company, and it was proposed to settle the whole matter definitely by enacting such legislation as will allow the Lawrenceville company to supply Lawrenceville, the East Liberty company to supply East Liberty and Liberty township, and the Wilkinsburg company to supply Wilkinsburg township. Some of the members thought they saw a "snake" in this, intended to benefit the Lawrenceville company. The proposition was laid over.

A resolution was passed in Common Council thanking Messrs. Wilson, Ford and Miller for their successful efforts in defeating the reinvestion bill.

Several other matters of interest will be found in the proceedings, to which we invite attention.

Dry Tortugas.

The telegraph informs us that Col. Grenfell, a prisoner at the Dry Tortugas, has escaped from that place. It seems that the escape took place on the night between the 6th and 7th of March last, and that the Colonel managed to take along with him three other prisoners and one of the soldiers who were on guard at the time, leaving the one who was the sentinel in charge of the boats connected with the post, while he was on guard. It is supposed that this Colonel in question managed to bribe the guard to desert, and to aid him and the other three prisoners to escape. As soon as the escape was discovered the United States steamer Ella was sent out in search of the fugitives, but she failed to find any trace of them. On the night of the escape it was blowing a gale, and as the boat which they took was but small and in bad condition, it is probable that they all perished.

Colonel Grenfell is said to be a notorious character. About a year and a half ago, an anonymous letter from the Tortugas was published in a New York Copperhead paper, and republished in one of our Pittsburgh cotemporaries. This letter charged the officers at the Tortugas with gross misconduct in the management of the post. These charges, upon a proper inquiry being instituted, were found to be entirely false, and the authorship of the letter was traced to Col. Grenfell. If the escape has not wallowed up him and his fellow fugitives, it will probably not be long until he will by some act of villainy let it be known where he is.

European Armaments.

The movement initiated by Prussia for the disarmament of the European nations has a deep significance; and this will be understood when it is known that the standing army of Europe at the present time numbers 2,500,000 men, at a total cost of $1,440,000,000 annually, to say nothing of the expenses of forts, fleets, armaments and other burthens of semi-war-fare. This is the cost of the peace establishment, it should be remembered, what it would be in case of a general war, can scarcely be imagined. Under this system nearly every European nation is bankrupt. Prussia is the only country that pays its way; and even the government of Great Britain thinks that it is sufficient to pay the interest of the public debt without dreaming of paying the principal. In France, Austria, Russia, Spain, Italy and the minor nations, the expenses exceed the income. The people are everywhere taxed to the utmost of their capacity, and failing that resource, borrowing is resorted to. In sixteen years France spent 800,000,000 francs (4,000,000,000 in excess of the receipts. The other continental governments are in a like fix.

Vacant Diplomatic Offices.

There is an unusual number of diplomatic offices vacant at present, which it may fall to the lot of Mr. Wade to fill. Among the most important of these are—the American Mission, to which it is suggested to re-appoint J. Lothrop Motley; the Russian Mission, resigned by Cassius M. Clay; the Missions to Mexico, Buenos Ayres, Bolivia, Ecuador, United States of Columbia and Hayti. In addition to these the Missions to Great Britain, Spain, Portugal and Chile, it is said, will certainly be vacant on a change of administration. In view of the number and importance of these offices, it will be remarkable to see how many warm friends Mr. Wade has under the circumstances in his Presidential aspiration, by their offices to relieve him of anxiety in making the appointments in their favor.

Day Tortugas.

A Whole and a Reverse Board, composed of certain U. S. officers, was organized lately in Philadelphia, under the authority and direction of the Revenue Department. The object was to prevent frauds and assist in collect the whisky tax. After going for a considerable time the Board was dissolved as a failure, the fact being that whisky continued to be sold, and is now sold, in Philadelphia at a price less than one half the Government tax. We assumed that the thing is "clear as a quill," the frauds being the inevitable consequence of the kind of men kept in office there. Nearly all of them are genuine Johnson men, and their removal will take place only when Mr. Johnson is removed, and from that date the revenue will increase.

Translation of Prince Louis Bonaparte, a grandson of one of the brothers of the Great Napoleon, to the head of the Papacy on the death of Pio Nono, which cannot be far off, is believed to be one of the designs of the French Emperor. He has lately received the title of Cardinal, and the name of St. Pierre-Bonaco. According to a London paper, the programme furnished is that, with a cousin of the Emperor at the French at the head of the Vendee Church, the pair of them will play into each other's hands for the abolition of the temporal power, and so all in settling the complicated question of Italian unity to the glory of France, and, under her protection, to the security of the Church.

The name of Hon. W. E. Stevenson, a former citizen of Pittsburgh, is mentioned in connection with the Republican nomination for Congress in the First West Virginia District. Mr. Stevenson has been for two successive terms Speaker of the West Virginia Senate, and is still acting in that capacity. His friends here will indorse the following estimate of him: "He is a man of large administrative abilities—a ripe scholar—possessing and illustrating—of sterling integrity—and a man that could at all times be found willing and anxious to look after the welfare and interests of his constituents."

The Newport and Cincinnati Bridge Company have secured the necessary legislation from the state Legislature to warrant the erection of a bridge over the Ohio river between the cities named. The span over the main channel must be three hundred feet in the clear and its centre not less than one hundred feet above the surface of the water at low water, and each height above extreme high water as is provided by acts of Congress.

Gen. Burnside was in Indianapolis when he heard that he had been re-elected Governor of Rhode Island. It took him by surprise, as he was under the impression that the election did not take place at this week. He was compelled to change his arrangements, so as to enable him to go home to be inaugurated. The General is not likely ever to be charged with using underhanded means to procure his election.

Bruce Fire Brigade Steamer, who was unfortunately injured by the railroad accident near Scranton some weeks since, still remains at Scranton. He is now able to sit up a portion of each day, and expects to return to Philadelphia in a few weeks.

THE TAX REPEAL.

The Law as it Was Signed by the President.

The following is the text of the bill to exempt certain manufactures from internal tax and for other purposes, as agreed to by Congress, and which has received the signature of the President:

Be it enacted, &c., That sections 16 and 17 of the act entitled an act to provide internal revenue, to support the government, to pay interest on the public debt, and for other purposes, approved June 30, 1864, and as amended by the act approved March 2, 1867, and all other acts and parts of acts amendatory thereof, except such parts of said sections and amendments thereto as relate to the taxes imposed on gas fixtures, and on all articles of manufactured gas, and on all articles of manufactured coal, and on all other articles of manufactured oil, or the products of petroleum, and on all articles of which petroleum, or any of the products of petroleum, or any of the products of coal, or other inflammable substances of whatever kind may form a part

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SPRING.

"Winter is cruel,

[illegible]

Spring-becoming. The grateful change

[illegible]

Spring-becoming! How our gladdened eyes

[illegible]

Spring-becoming! But her greenery

[illegible]

Spring-becoming! And her pageantry

[illegible]

Spring-becoming! From their steeping

[illegible]

Spring-becoming! Spring-becoming!

[illegible]

Spring-becoming! How the grasses

[illegible]

Spring-becoming! How the leaflets

[illegible]

Spring-becoming! How the crocus

[illegible]

Spring-becoming! How the violet

[illegible]

Spring-becoming! How the daisy

[illegible]

Spring-becoming! How the clover

[illegible]

Spring-becoming! How the lily

[illegible]

Spring-becoming! How the rose

[illegible]

Spring-becoming! Spring-becoming!

[illegible]

Spring-becoming! Spring-becoming!

[illegible]

Spring-becoming! Spring-becoming!

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CITY COUNCILS.

Suggestions from Mayor Blackmore—Toll-Gates and Street Cleaning—Widening of Fifth Street Side Walks—Tax Levy Passed—City Solicitor's Opinion on the Vote Required—Executive Appointments—Objections by the Allegheny Valley Railroad Company—Two Ordinances Passed—The Inspectorship of Buildings—Vote of Thanks to Certain Legislators—The Widening of Cherry Street—The Last Councilor Engine Company—The Monumental Association, Etc., Etc.

The Select and Common Councils of the city of Pittsburgh held a meeting on Monday afternoon, April 6th, under the provisions of the amendment act, requiring sessions to be held on the first Mondays of April, July, October and January. The assessment for the current quarter, not having received the signatures of the Governor until Friday, the Presidents of Councils could not conveniently conform to the call for this meeting, and it was therefore held, although not actually necessary under the present law, which fixes the time for regular meetings on the last Monday afternoon of each month.]

SELECT COUNCIL.

JAMES McAULEY, - - - - *President.*
E. S. MORROW, - - - - *Clerk.*

The CLERK called the roll, when the following named members answered to present: Messrs. W. S. Brown, A. M. Brown, Bailey, Coffin, Coyle, Dilworth, Gerwig, Gourley, Kehew, Laufman, Morrow, McClintock, McEwen, McKibben, Ogden, Rafferty, Shipton, Wainwright, White and President McAuley.

The CLERK read the minutes of the meeting of March 16th and March 30th, which were approved.

The PRESIDENT explained the circumstances under which the meeting had been held. The Councils, at the meeting of March 30th, had adjourned until April 13th, but this meeting had been rendered necessary by the original act of consolidation, which fact had been overlooked at the time. Hence, however, the time of meeting had been changed to the present and next acts. He had received notice of the signing of this bill in time to command the call for this meeting.

SUGGESTIONS FROM THE MAYOR—TOLL GATES AND STREET CLEANING.

The PRESIDENT submitted the following communication from the Mayor:

[*To the Select and Common Councils of the City of Pittsburgh:*

GENTLEMEN—Several complaints are being made from time to time against the exorbitant charges for toll at the gates on the Penn avenue road, and I would respectfully suggest that the matter be referred to the Committee on Roads, with instructions to report what action, if any, can be taken by Councils to relieve the people from the present oppressive charges.

Another matter which I would call your attention to is the cleaning of the streets. The present system is a very expensive one, and I am satisfied that a more economical one could be devised. I would suggest that the matter be referred to the Committee on Streets, with instructions to report a plan for cleaning the streets by contract, and at a reduced rate.

Respectfully yours, JAMES BLACKMORE, Mayor.

Mr. McAULEY stated that he was opposed to the ordinance when originally introduced, on the ground that more than half our streets were in better shape than half can have been. He was now in favor of its repeal.

The question was then taken on Mr. BROWN'S motion to pass the ordinance, notwithstanding the veto of the Mayor, and the vote stood:

Yeas.....5
Nays.....9

The PRESIDENT then stated that the ordinance had not passed.

[Mr. W. S. BROWN took the chair as President *pro tem*, Mr. McAuley retiring to the floor.]

THE WILL OF THE LATE J. K. RAILWAY.

Mr. GROSS rose to a question of privilege. He said that in the will of the late J. K. Railway, $100,000 had been bequeathed to the Poor of Pittsburgh, and for that purpose the executors, seeing what the gentlemen had done in regard to the matter, would offer the following resolution:

Resolved, That two members of the Select and three members of the Common Councils be and are hereby appointed a committee of conference with, the executors of the will of the late J. K. Railway, deceased, to confer with them in relation to the bequest to the poor of the city in the will of said deceased, and that the Committee on Ordinances, Ways and Means, Claims, and appropriations, Borough Regulations, Laws, Fire, Water, Markets, Police, Lamps and Gas, Public Grounds, Railroads, Wharves, Ferries and Bridges